

Recycling Center & Transfer Station

Bob Webber retired in July and the baton was passed to me. On one hand, Bob is a very tough act to follow, but on the other hand, Bob left the Recycling Center and Transfer Station in excellent order with no major problems needing to be addressed. Prior to Bob's retiring, with the help of the Solid Waste Committee, a new backhoe was purchased for the Transfer Station. The new backhoe is equipped with a clamp style hoe, which makes it easier to separate furniture and other demo debris into its recyclable components. A big thanks to Bob and the Solid Waste Committee.

Tonnage processed at Recycling Center and Transfer Station over the past four years follows:

Recycling Center & Transfer Station Summary 2002 through 2005				
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Waste Received				
Recycling Center (Tons)	1667.0	1798.8	1778.8	1768.6
Transfer Station (Tons)	1479.9	1652.8	1497.4	1555.8
Total Tons	3156.9	3451.6	3276.2	3324.4
Material Recycled				
Recycling Center	599.6	649.1	628.7	635.1
Transfer Station	1188.4	1274.1	1093.1	1179.4
Total Tons	1788.0	1923.2	1721.8	1814.5
Recycling Rates %				
Recycling Center %	35.80%	36.10%	35.30%	35.90%
Transfer Station %	80.30%	77.10%	73.00%	75.80%
Annual Combined Recycling Rate	56.60%	55.70%	52.60%	54.60%

Harpwell's recycling rate for 2005 was 54.6% percent; however, the Transfer Station is the primary contributor to the excellent recycling rate. The recycling rate at the Recycle Center was only 35.9%. The recycling rate at the Transfer Station was 75.8%. Recycling rates have held virtually constant for the past 4 years.

To increase the recycling rate at the Recycling Center, help is needed from all Harpswell residents. The rate could easily be much higher. There continues to be a large volume of recyclable materials being thrown into the compactors. Almost all paper that does not fit into the corrugated or newsprint and magazine categories can go into mixed paper. Examples of mixed paper are cereal boxes, food boxes, junk mail, shredded paper, etc. Please help! Each ton of recyclable material being hauled off in the compactors costs nearly \$100.00 in tipping fees and transportation, and represents a ton of recyclable material that could have been sold for an average of \$90/ton. The cost to the taxpayer for each ton of recyclable material that is thrown into the compactors is more than \$190. Again, your help is needed to increase the recycling rate and reduce the cost to the taxpayers of operating the Recycling Center and Transfer Station.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Disposal Fees:						
Brush	\$ 3,869	\$ 5,694	\$ 5,957	\$ 7,130	\$ 9,869	\$ 18,584
Demo Material	61,583	63,451	33,348	48,124	69,862	77,970
Household Debris	4,362	3,550	2,838	2,914	4,873	12,780
Refrigerators	670	830	1,022	1,424	2,075	1,905
Metal			3,128	4,029	6,839	8,812
Tires	820	1,141	1,882	1,585	2,170	2,959
Universal Waste			3,453	3,674	3,723	4,678
White goods						41
Subtotal	\$ 71,304	\$ 74,665	\$ 51,626	\$ 68,879	\$ 99,412	\$127,729
Sales:						
Cans & Bottles	\$ 2,579	\$ 2,111	\$ 4,307	\$ 6,009	\$ 6,565	\$ 6,771
Cardboard	5,910	2,933	9,323	5,496	7,964	7,141
Glass	381	268				
Metal	8,134	9,156	2,494	4,061	8,046	8,546
Newspaper	13,797	8,603	11,785	16,146	23,154	15,106
Paper	2,538	5,041	2,581	6,656	1,926	6,867
Plastic	2,851				7,114	12,010
Reclaim			165	1,061	5,328	1,823
Wood Chips				586	780	
Subtotal	\$ 36,190	\$ 28,111	\$ 30,654	\$ 40,015	\$ 60,876	\$ 58,264
Other:	\$ 2,930	\$ 446				
Total	\$110,424	\$103,223	\$ 82,280	\$108,894	\$160,288	\$185,993

Revenues generated by the Recycling Center and Transfer Station.

Revenues at the Recycling Center are driven by market prices. Currently, recycled paper prices are low. Mixed Paper started the year at \$76/ton and ended the year at \$31/ton. At the same time, HDPE Natural (milk jugs) started the year at \$560/ton and ended the year at \$696/ton. Harpswell recycled a total of 532 tons of corrugated cardboard, newsprint, mixed paper, tin cans, and plastic containers in 2005. We can do even better. You can make 2006 a record year for recycling in Harpswell!



(back) Todd Steinman Lester Goodwin
(front) Mark Wallace Jim Gordon Greg King
Manager